

To: Montana Judicial Committee
Re: Senate Bill 112: The Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act; Promoting Safety for Youth Athletes
From: Anthony "Toby" Kinney, PT, DPT, MBA, OCS
Representing the Montana Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association
Date: February 1, 2013

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Committee:

My name is Toby Kinney. I live in Missoula, and I am a licensed physical therapist. I work as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science at the University of Montana. I have been a physical therapist for over ten and a half years. I am here today to testify in support of SB 112. I support SB 112 and the amendments offered by Sen. Blewett for the following reasons.

My experience with concussion is both personal and professional. I, like many others before me, had my "bell rung" on a few occasions while participating in organized youth athletics. Years later I had a more disabling concussion while playing in a soccer match in graduate school. The impairments from this concussion lasted for weeks. Fortunately, I had resolution of symptoms, and completed my degree to become a physical therapist. Others have not been that fortunate.

Professionally, I have treated patients in physical therapy across the spectrum. From patients with a traumatic brain injury in New York City to world-class winter athletes. In my patients who have had a concussion I have witnessed the daily disruption and limited function that results from these impairments. As a physical therapist trained in neuromusculoskeletal evaluation and assessment, and with continuing education training, I feel physical therapists should be added "as a licensed health care professional" to SB 112.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of SB112 with the amendment adding Physical Therapy. This bill will protect youths from returning to athletics prematurely following a concussion. Furthermore, it will facilitate further education and understanding of a condition that impacts millions of individuals on a yearly basis.

I support this bill as currently written and amended

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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